



TIGER TALES

5 RAR TIGERS

NEWSLETTER of the 5 RAR ASSOCIATION

PP 22620210007

JANUARY 1996

EDITION 7

Editor's NOTEBOOK

On behalf of the 5RAR Association Committee I would like to wish all Association members and their families a very happy New Year, and sincerely hope that a safe and happy Christmas was enjoyed by all. It is pleasing to note that our Association is continuing to grow, with membership now over 800. This has been achieved by the ongoing efforts of our state representatives, with a special mention to our Queensland branch.

I must mention once again that a percentage of members have not paid their \$25.00 subscription fee. Without this financial support our magazine will cease to be viable. I can only say that if you want to receive your TIGER TALES in the future, please pay the 5 yr fee of \$25.00.

If you are financial the letters FIN will appear on your issue of TIGER TALES (address label). Also please let the Association know if you change your address.

I draw your attention to the coming events in 1996.

TAMWORTH VIETNAM VETERANS
RE-UNION - 17-18 February 1996.

2. WAGGA WAGGA - 2-3 March 1996 -
Association plaque KAPOOKA CHAPEL.

3. NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS FAMILY
RE-UNION -
LAUNCESTON - 17-18 August 1996.

Members wishing to attend the above listed functions will find detailed information in this issue of TIGER TALES.

Don't overlook the return form for future TIGER Re-unions. The return form is attached to the August 1995 issue and also in this edition.

Put pen to paper and let us know your views.

STATE DETAILS ON ANZAC DAY 1996.

SYDNEY

11.30 am

NSW

Assemble corner Bent Street and Phillip Street adjacent to State office block.

12.45 pm

At conclusion of march continue to Tudor Inn, 249 Castlereagh Street. Meet at the first floor bar. Two course lunch \$11.00. Pay cash for the lunch at the Tudor Inn. Drinks at bar prices. Bar open until 7.00 pm.

CANBERRA

10.15 am

ACT

Form up with RAR Association in Anzac Parade near Vietnam Memorial for 10.30 start.

After ceremony at War Memorial function at Olim's Hotel - Ainslie.

BRISBANE QLD

The march will form up as usual in their respective areas, then proceed up George St, turning right into Ann St, taking an "eyes right" at the saluting base and carry on past the Eternal Flame, proceeding to turn right into Creek St for dispersal in the usual places.

MELBOURNE VIC.

10.30am

Form up in Swanston Walk (between Collins and Bourke Streets, on the Town hall side). 5RAR will be second to step off. Reunion and drinks at CREST Hotel in Barkly Street, St Kilda, after march and service.

PERTH WA

5.30am Dawn Service at Kings Park.
9.30am Assemble at corner of St Georges Terrace and Pier Street.
After the march, join the rest of the RAR Association at the Regatta Hotel (the old Criterion Hotel) at 560 Hay Street, Perth.
Smorgasbord luncheon available.
Drinks at bar prices.



It is my sad duty to inform all Association members of the passing of six of our comrades:

GORDON OWENS
FREDERICK CLARK
HARRY KALLERGIS
MERV FRIDOLF
J. CROWTHER
B. TOOLE

"Lest we forget"

5 RAR ASSOCIATION
STATE REPRESENTATIVES

QLD Lt Col R T Shambrook AM Ron
57 Lade Street
ENNOGERA QLD 4051
Tel : B. (07) 252 9866

VIC Mr G Levey Geoff
40 Brook Street
SUNBURY VIC 3429
Tel :H. (03) 744 4078
B. (03) 339 1234

SA Mr R H Naismith Bob
16/A2 Harrison Road
PENNINGTON SA 5013
Tel : H. (08) 326 1813

WA Mr J D BurrigeJohn
88 Watkins Road
CLAREMONT WA 6010

TAS Mr C M Illman Colin
20 Blackstone Road
LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

STATE REPRESENTATIVES cont

ACT Mr G Negus Greg
3 Daplyn Close
WESTON ACT 2611
Tel : (06) 243 1029 B.
(06) 288 2070 H.

Recce Platoon 1966/67
30 Year Reunion

The above is planned to be held somewhere convenient in 1996.

Could all ranks who served in the above platoon please forward their current address and particulars so that you can be advised further.

It is proposed to combine the reunion with the launch of "The Eye of the Tiger", a book of the platoon's first tour of duty.

Details to:
Mick Deak MC
C/O Michael von Berg & Associates Pty Ltd
PO Box 131
Eastwood SA 5063
Fax No 08 373 2982

TAMWORTH VIETNAM VETERANS
REUNION
17TH AND 18TH FEBRUARY 1996

The Tamworth branch of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia will hold a reunion in Tamworth on 17/18 February '96.

The programme is as follows:

Saturday, 17th February
11.30am -
4.00pm Gather at Tamworth RSL Club,
Kable Ave, for registration.
Lunch available (at own cost) in Bistro,
12.00 to 2.00 pm.
4.50pm Assemble at Railway Park,
Marius Street, for march to
Vietnam Memorial.
5.00pm March to Memorial, service and wreath
laying.
5.25pm End of service march to RSL.
5.35pm Pre-dinner drinks.
6.30pm Dinner followed by live music
and dancing.

Sunday, 18th February

RETURN FOR THE ANSWER

9.00am -

12.01pm BBQ breakfast/lunch to allow for those who wish to depart early. BBQ behind RSL overlooking the Peel River.

Cost of Reunion dinner is \$30.00 each.

For further information contact:

Tamworth Vietnam Legion Veterans Association
PO Box 1443
Tamworth NSW 2340

**NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS
FAMILY REUNION**

A Vietnam Veterans Family Reunion is to be held in Launceston, Tasmania on 17/18 August 1996.

The organisers of the reunion expect that between 5 000 and 10 000 veterans will attend the reunion.

Enquiries should be directed to:

Vietnam Veterans
Family Reunion Committee
PO Box 139
Launceston Tasmania 7250
Telephone: (003) 34 7874 Facsimile: (003) 34 7868

Fares and accommodation can be booked through:

Tas. Temptation
Tel: 003 363 204 and 003 363 180
or
Free Fax: 1800 817 618

A silver bird with a red kangaroo
Metal skin for feathers, but it still flew.
Inside an old soldier from Uc-dai-loi
Returns to a place when just a boy.
And it now banks across paddies green
Over a land thirty years, I had not seen.
Searching an answer, fill one missing page
Of a time when I was less than half my age.
Since I had last set eyes upon
Ho Chi Minh City, 'twas called Saigon.
But urban sprawl was not my goal
'Twas a hill alone, more like a knoll.
Old 'Vungers' of course, I had to see
Binh Ba and Baria, in Phuoc Tuy.
I also saw the Mekong and Dalat
But my heart still yearned for Nui Dat.

At last astride this rocky, balding peak
I gaze full circle with eyes that seek,
Familiar signs hidden in my mind
As I let the coiled past unwind.
No trees to dress it like it had before
No one wants it now naked, anymore.
Oh Wolverton taunting, in the western sky
Dominating and haunting, and you know why.
Many times patrolling your ravines and slopes
Sometimes at night simply linked by ropes.
What pain and sweat to reach your other side
Return to camp without mates who died.
In the distant south, two hills form a pair
Indicating Vung Tau lies just there.
'Twas thirty Ks from where I now sat
Where we'd take leave from Nui Dat.

Long Hai beckons like an open door
How you deceived us in that bloody war.
Any beauty in you we never found
Death hidden inside and all around.
From a strip below, planes once flew
Cessnas, choppers, Hercs and Caribou.
In contrast then to engine roars and hums
Farmers tend their cattle, grow Australian gums.
And Long Tan's marker and surrounds bare too
Whilst the Da Bang River, now a lake in lieu.
Along Noack's Road north of this hill
Nothing grows upon it, even still.
Amongst the rubber I find that place
Where I lived twelve months when back in base.
Inside my mind is an ingrained map
I've found my old home at Nui Dat.

Rustling leaves still litter that red ground
I sense lurking ghosts who make no sound.
Memories flashing, they come and go
An eerie sight looking down each row.
And where 'top brass' had pitched their homes
Scattered tombstones now mark rocky domes.

I pondered at what this might have meant
Could each be a fitting monument
To those who dwelled inside those tents
A cost of that war, which made no sense.

Poverty and disease, they still persist
Graft and corruption still exist.
Peasants still poor, what was it for?
Maybe both sides lost that crazy war.
For those returning they might find that
Perhaps an answer lies at Nui Dat.

By PAUL LA FOREST

LETTERS to the EDITOR

R P CHIVERS - MACKAY QLD

Dear Ron
Thank you for your letter and we are all pleased to have you back. (We lost Ron for a while.)

It is good to hear that you are amongst friends and the house is open to vets.

Let us know the location when you next write, as I didn't receive the address.

Best wishes
Brian London

PS
I will send the photos back Ron. They didn't reproduce in clear detail. Brian



MERVYN JOHN FRIDOLF

Merv Fridolf passed away in Brisbane on 31 December 1995, after a short illness.

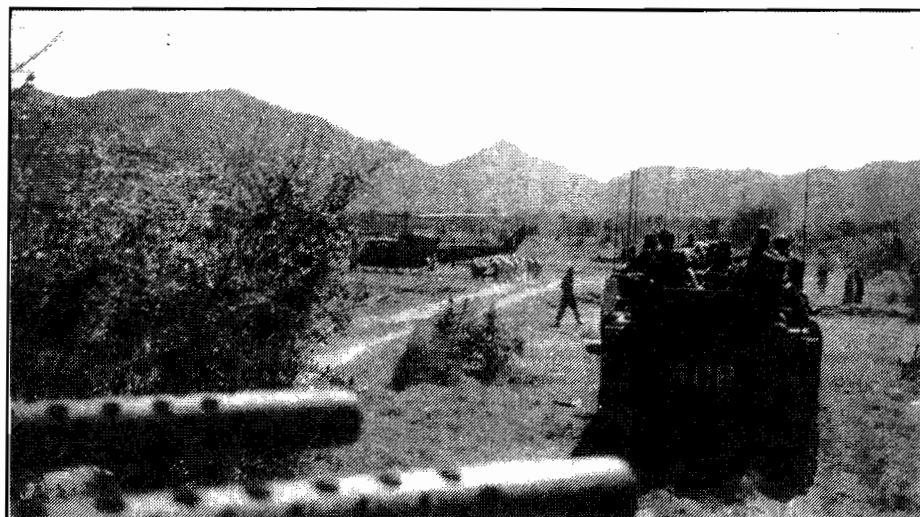
Merv will be remembered as the chief clerk of 5 RAR during the first tour in Vietnam.

When the battalion was formed in March 1965, Merv was transferred from 1 RAR and he was responsible to establish the administrative systems and procedures within the battalion.

Following his service in Vietnam, Merv attended the School of Languages at Point Cook to study the Thai language and he was then posted to Bangkok as Assistant to the Australian Military Attache.

In recent years, Merv had been very active in keeping Queensland members of the 5 RAR Association informed of the Association activities, and through his untiring efforts the membership increased considerably.

Merv was well known for his cheerfulness and enthusiasm for everything he undertook. He will be sadly missed and the Association extends its condolences to his wife, Denise and family.



*5RAR 1st Tour
Evacuation of wounded and those
killed in action after VC attack using
mines and booby traps.*

EDITOR: B.K. London
PO Box 422
BATEMANS BAY
NSW 2536
Phone (044) 72 5748

Secretary
5RAR Association
GPO Box 817
SYDNEY NSW 2001

WEEK-END AT WAGGA WAGGA 2-3 MARCH 1996

NAME:.....TELEPHONE NO:.....

ADDRESS:.....

.....POST CODE:.....

I will be attending the week-end at Wagga Wagga on 2-3 March'96
and I will be attending the following activities:

Buffet dinner; evening of Saturday, 2nd March'96.
Please provide.....ticket(s) @ \$25 each. Total \$.....

The unveiling of the plaque at 1RTB on
Sunday, 3rd March'96.

The BBQ at 1RTB on Sunday, 3rd March'96.
Please provide..... tickets @ \$5:00 each. Total \$.....

_____ **TOTAL \$.....**

A cheque/ money order made out to 5RAR Association is enclosed.

DATE:.....

.....
SIGNATURE



*Pte. Case & Pte. Cullen - March '66
Special issue tropical gear - when
only the best will do!*



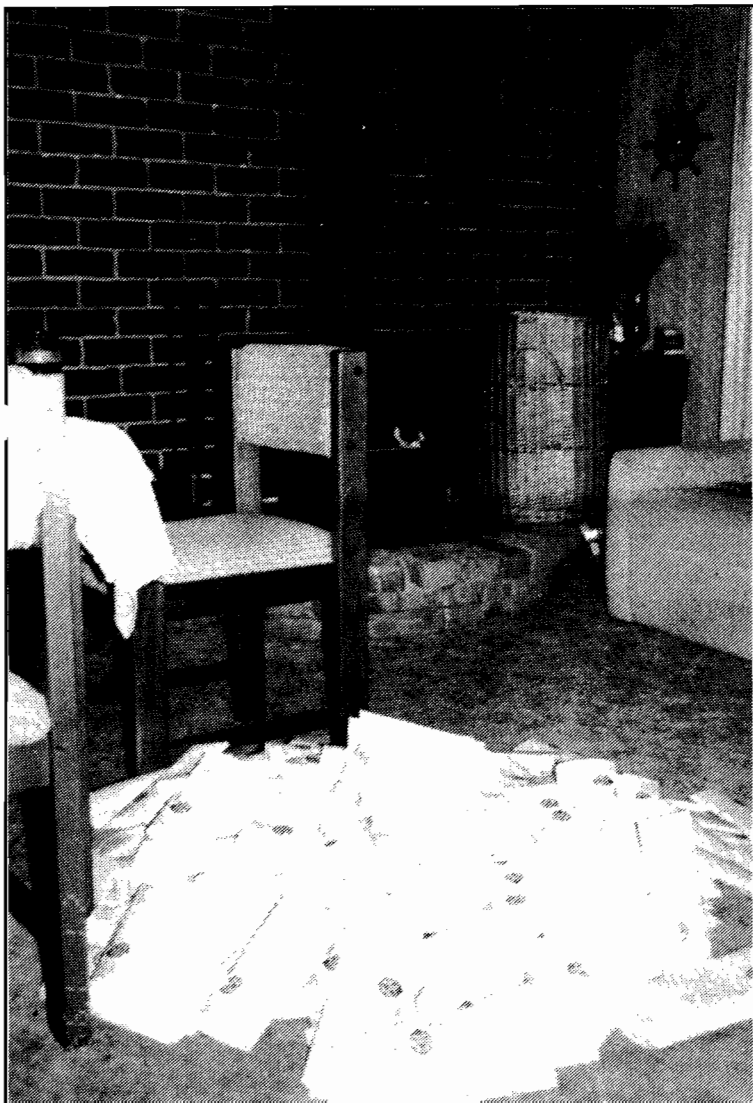
Single Platoon 1st Tour Line Section



U.S.A. 11 CAV 1966/67



New tiger found at Batemans Bay - the Editor was unable to collect fees to join association!



*TIGER TALES
Office of the Editor*



5RAR 1966/67 about to board U.S. Hueys for operation insertion



5RAR 1966/67 Air strike on enemy positions.

1. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and 2. ORDER FORM

Hon SECRETARY
5 RAR Association
GPO Box 817
SYDNEY, NSW 2001

MEMBER'S DETAILS

Surname
Given Names
Address

Post Code

RETURN THIS COMPLETE PAGE (please print)
DELETE FORMS NOT APPLICABLE TO YOU

1st/2nd Tour
Company
Phone: (H)
(B)

Platoon

Please **ENSURE** your details
are complete before mailing.

| | AMOUNT ENCLOSED |
|--|--------------------|
| <u>5RAR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION</u> | |
| 1. Renewal of membership @ \$25.00 <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | \$ |
| 2. New member @ 25.00 <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | \$ |
| <u>RAR ASSOCIATION ITEMS (FOR SALE)</u> | |
| <u>Number Required</u> | |
| 3. 5RAR Video @ \$40.00 <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | \$ |
| 4. 5RAR Tie/s @ \$15.00 <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | \$ |
| 5. 5RAR Car Stickers @ \$3.00 <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | \$ |
| 6. RAR Caps @ \$13.00 <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | \$ |
| 7. 5RAR Honour Rolls @ \$30.00 <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | \$ |
| 8. 5RAR Plaques @ \$15.00 <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | \$ |
| 9. 5RAR Book VIETNAM TASK @ \$28.00 (including postage) <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | \$ |
| TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED | \$ |

INFORMATION SHEET

Booking Accommodation

In booking accommodation, we will endeavour to place you in or close to Launceston. Early bookings will have first choice; later bookings may be up to 1 hours drive from Launceston in north of Tasmania, or a 2 hour drive to the capital, Hobart.

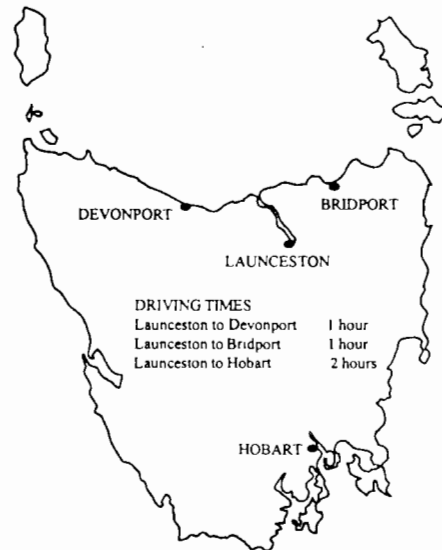
Accommodation Categories

As a general guide only, the price ranges used overleaf include the following styles of accommodation:-

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------|--|
| | \$25 - 39; | Cabin Parks, B&B Pubs, Budget Motels, on site caravans |
| B | \$40 - 59; | Budget self-catering units, Heritage B&B Inns, 3 star motels/hotels, colonial cottages |
| C/D | \$60 - 99; | 3-4 star Hotels/Motels, Historic Houses, Country Retreats, self-catering units, |
| | \$80-99; | Colonial Cottages |
| E | \$100 & over; | 4-5 star Country Clubs, Casinos, Sheraton, Novotel, Colonial Manors, quality motels |

Car Rental Categories

Mini Manual - (Mazda 121/similar)
Small Hatch - (Corolla/similar)
Small Manual Sedan - (Corolla/similar)
Compact Auto Sedan - (Corolla Seca/similar)
Medium Auto Sedan - (Camry/Magna)
Large Auto Sedan - (Commodore/Magna/Falcon)
Large Auto Station Wagon - (Commodore/Magna/Falcon)
'2 Seater Minibus - (Star Wagon/Spacia)
Luxury/Prestige - (Varada/Fairlane)



Sea Travel

The Spirit of Tasmania travels from Melbourne to Devonport, on the evening of Monday 12 August, Wednesday 14 August and Friday 16 August. Return voyages overnight are on Tuesday 20 August and Thursday 22 August.

We have allocations of cabins, vehicle spaces, and pensioner spaces on these voyages at special discounted rates.

NOTE:

A deposit of \$100 per booking is required to hold the reservations. Bookings will be cancelled after two weeks if deposit not received.

Members information
only ~ editor TT

Tasmania's Temptations Holidays

VIETNAM VETERANS 1996 CONVENTION BOOKING FORM - Accommodation - Car Hire - Travel -

ACCOMMODATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ (UNIT) 5RAR

PHONE: Work: _____ Home: _____ Fax: _____

TOTAL NO. ADULTS: _____ TOTAL NO. CHILDREN: _____ AGES: _____

Please indicate by √, dates required and preferred price range.

| Per Night Per person twin share | Mon 12 | Tue 13 | Wed 14 | Thu 15 | Fri 16 | Sat 17 | Sun 18 | Mon 19 |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| A \$25 - 39 | | | | | | | | |
| B \$40 - 59 | | | | | | | | |
| C \$60 - 79 | | | | | | | | |
| D \$80 - 99 | | | | | | | | |
| E \$100 & over | | | | | | | | |

Please circle accommodation style required:

- DOUBLE/TWIN/SINGLE/FAMILY SHARE ROOM/SELF CATERING/2 BEDROOM UNIT/COTTAGE/CABIN
- MOTEL - HOTEL/GUEST HOUSE/COLONIAL STYLE/OTHER ...
- Are disabled facilities required: YES/NO

CAR RENTAL

Car Category: _____

Date & Place of Collection: _____

Date & Place of Return: _____

(Booking confirmed by category only - specific makes not guaranteed. Category description overleaf. Car rental is based on a 24 hour period.)

AIR TRAVEL

Forward flight from _____ to Launceston. Day/Date: _____ Departure time: _____

Return flight from Launceston to _____ Day/Date: _____ Departure time: _____

If you wish to travel by sea please indicate in the box and we will forward you a ship booking form and price details.
(Sea details overleaf)

Full payments to be finalised by Wednesday 01 May 1996.
Credit card accounts will also be debited from 01 May 1996.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cheques payable to: Vietnam Veterans Convention PO Box 139 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250 | For further information contact: Lynette Neil, Event Co-ordinator Tasmania's Temptations Holidays PH: 1800 626 963 Fax: 1800 817 618 |
|---|---|

NAMES (as written on card): _____

Please debit my: Mastercard Bankcard Visa American Express

Card No: _____ Expiry Date: _____



Trooping the Colour

St. Kilda Cricket Ground

Sunday, 28th November, 1937

(St. Andrew's Sunday)

by the

Victorian Scottish Regiment

(5th Battalion A.M.F.)

assisted by

Scotch College Cadet Corps

and Veterans of

5th Battalion Australian Imperial Force

and Victorian Scottish Regiment

The Salute will be taken by

Colonel F. P. Derham, D.S.O., V.D.

Commanding 2nd Infantry Brigade H.M.F.

EVOLUTION OF THE VICTORIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT

Badge— The Lion Rampant.

Motto: "Nemo me impune lacessit" (No one provokes me with impunity).

This unit was originally raised in Melbourne in 1898, as a Volunteer Highland Regiment, designated "THE VICTORIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT," retaining this title until 1908, when it became "THE VICTORIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT—1st BATTALION."

It retained its national character until the inception of compulsory military training in 1912, when it became the "52nd INFANTRY," which in 1913 had the territorial title allotted to it, making its designation, "52nd (HOBSON'S BAY) INFANTRY."

At the outbreak of war, the men who served in the above units formed a large proportion of the initial strength of the "5th BATTALION AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE."

In 1918, during the reorganisation of that year, the 52nd (Hobson's Bay) and 51st (Albert Park) Infantry united, and the regiment became the "2/5th INFANTRY," the 1st Bn. being the service Bn., only to remain as such until the Divisional organisation of 1921, when the 2/5th, part of the 29th Light Horse Regiment, part of the 2/46th Infantry, and part of the 2/60th Infantry, were formed into the "5th BATTALION," and in 1927 it regained its original territorial designation, "THE VICTORIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT."

Permission to wear the kilt was restored in 1933.

In July, 1930, General Sir Ian Hamilton, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D., was appointed Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, and the unit was allied to The Gordon Highlanders.

V.S.R. BATTLE HONOURS.

South Africa 1899-1902.

Landing at Anzac
Helles
Bullecourt

Ypres, 1917

Amiens

Somme, 1916-1918

Hindenberg Line

Pozières Ridge

Menin Road Ridge

Hazebrouck

CORPS OF GORDON HIGHLANDERS

"The Gay Gordons"

The Gordon Highlanders.

Victorian Scottish Regiment (5th Bn. A.M.F.).

The London Scottish (14th Bn. London Regiment).

The 48th Highlanders of Canada.

The Capetown Highlanders.

VICTORIAN SCOTTISH REGIMENT WELFARE ASSOCIATION

President—

SIR WALTER LEITCH, K.B., C.B.E.

Senior Vice-President—

Mr. C. N. MACKENZIE.

Vice-Presidents—

Colonel D. S. WANLISS, C.M.G., V.D., Mr. A. DUNCAN.

Hon. Secretary—

Captain W. T. MEIKLE.

OBJECT:

To assist the Commanding Officer in the improvement of the Regiment, particularly as affecting the personnel. It is requested that all interested, please communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Regimental Headquarters, Sturt St., South Melbourne.

VIETNAM TASK

The 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment

Robert J. O'Neill



On 24 May 1966, eight hundred men of the Fifth Battalion landed at Nui Dat in Viet Cong territory. For the next twelve months they were faced with the task of restoring peace, civil law and regular commerce to the Vietnamese of Phuoc Tuy Province. This book is a detailed record of those months in the monsoon jungles – of the problems that were faced and the solutions that were found.

Major O'Neill's position as Battalion Intelligence Officer enabled him to view the war from the standpoint of the Battalion as a whole. However, he does not omit description of personal feelings – towards the Viet Cong, the jungle environment, the Vietnamese people and the other allied forces involved in the war.

Most of the book was written on the spot in Vietnam. On operations or at Battalion Headquarters, Major O'Neill jotted down details of the war against the Viet Cong; putting the events of each day in order, often in the small hours of the following morning. Thus not only is this a factual account of the Fifth Battalion's activities over the year, it is also a vivid and compelling picture of the war in Vietnam from the soldier's point of view.



NOW AVAILABLE!

**A SUPERBLY REPRINTED
HARDBOUND COPY OF
THE HISTORY OF THE BATTALION
ON ITS FIRST TOUR
SIMPLY ORDER ON THE FORM
IN THIS COPY OF TIGER TALES**